FCC For	m 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330847	
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Deb Egli	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com	
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422	

(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Co	ode				330847						
<015>	Study Area Na	ame				BELMONT TEL	CO					
<020>	> Program Year			2018								
<030>	Contact Name	e - Person USAC	should contac	t regarding this	data	Deb Egli						
<035>	Contact Telep	hone Number	Number of pe	rson identified	in data line <0	30> 6087443500	ext.					
<039>	Contact Email	Address - Ema	il Address of pe	erson identified	in data line <0	30> deb@cstech.	com					
<210>	For the prior	r calendar yea	ar, were there	any reportal	ole voice serv	ice outages?	No					
<220>	<a>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<b3></b3>	<b4></b4>	<c1></c1>	<c2></c2>	<d></d>	<e></e>	<f></f>	<g></g>	<h></h>
	NORS							•		Did This Outage	_	
	Reference	"	Outage Start			Number of		911 Facilities	Service Outage	Affect Multiple		
	Number	Date	Time	Date	Time	Customers Affected	Total Number of	Affected	Description (Check	Study Areas	Service Outage	Preventative

<a>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<b3></b3>	<b4></b4>	<c1></c1>	<c2></c2>	<d></d>	<e></e>	<f></f>	<g></g>	<h></h>
NORS									Did This Outage		
Reference	Outage Start	Outage Start	Outage End	Outage End	Number of		911 Facilities	Service Outage	Affect Multiple		
Number	Date	Time	Date		Customers Affected	Total Number of	Affected	Description (Check	Study Areas	Service Outage	Preventative
Number	Date	111110	Date	111110	customers Arrected	Customers			(Yes / No)	Resolution	Procedures
						Customers	(Yes / No)	all that apply)	(Yes / NO)	Resolution	Procedures
	1										
-											
									•		

(300) Unfulfilled Service Request Data Collection Form		OI	C Form 481 MB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. ly 2013	3060-0819
<010> Study Area Code	330847			
<015> Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO			
<020> Program Year	2018			
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli			
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030	0> 6087443500 ext.			
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030	0> deb@cstech.com			
<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)	0			
<310> Detail on attempts (voice)				
	Name of Attached Document			
<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)	0			
<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)				
	Name of Attached Document			

(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330847	
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should conta	ct regarding this data Deb Egli	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of p <030>		443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of p <030>	erson identified in data line deb	@cstech.com
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice calendar year for each service area in which any facilities you own, operate, lease, or or	telephony service in the prior on you are designated an ETC for	Offered only fixed voice
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed v	oice 0.	0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile	voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate end-user customer complaints (zero or greathe prior calendar year for each service are an ETC for any facilities you own, operate,	ater) for broadband service in care in which you are designated	Offered only fixed broadband
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed b	roadband 0.	0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile	broadband	

•	mpliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules lection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330847	
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com	
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer pr	otection rules Yes	
		330847wi510.pdf	
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection R	ules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards		

	unctionality in Emergency Situations ollection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330847	
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com	
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes	
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	330847wi610.pdf	

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data Data Collection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010> Study Area Code	330847	
<015> Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO	
<020> Program Year	2018	
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this of	ata Deb Egli	
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in	data line <030> 6087443500 ext.	
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in	n data line <030> deb@cstech.com	
<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date <702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge 14.	/2017 0	

<703>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<b3></b3>	<b4></b4>	<b5></b5>	<c></c>
	.				Residential Local			Mandatory Extended Area	
-	State	Exchange (ILEC)	SAC (CETC)	Rate Type	Service Rate	State Subscriber Line Charge	State Universal Service Fee	Service Charge	Total per line Rates and Fees
-									
•									
•									
					_				
-					See at	tached worksheet			
-									
-									
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-									

(710) Broadbrand Price Offerings	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code 3:	30847
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com

<711>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<c></c>	<d1></d1>	<d2></d2>	<d3></d3>	<d4></d4>
-	State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rate and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select }
-									
-									
-									
				See attac	hed				
-				worksheet -					
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}									
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}									
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. , .	erating Companies lection Form			FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code		330847	
<015>	Study Area Name		BELMONT TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year		2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person l	JSAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli	
<035>	Contact Telephone Num	ber - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address -	Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com	
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Belmont Telephone Company		
<811>	Holding Company	LICT Corporation	<u> </u>	
<812>	Operating Company	Belmont Telephone Company		

<813>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>
	Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation
•	See atta	ached workshe	et
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(900) Tribal Lands Reporting Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010> Study Area Code <015> Study Area Name <020> Program Year <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> <900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) <910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves	330847 BELMONT TEL CO 2018 Deb Egli 6087443500 ext. deb@cstech.com No
<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation	Name of Attached Document
If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:	Select Yes or No or Not Applicable
 <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions. <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning; <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner; <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements. 	

-	oice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability ection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code		330847
<015>	Study Area Name		BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year		2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data		Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line	<030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line	<030>	deb@cstech.com
<1000>	Voice services rate comparability certification	Yes	
<1010>	Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance	33084	47wi1010.pdf
			Name of Attached Document
<1020>	Broadband comparability certification		- Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by Wireline Competition Bureau
<1030>	Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance	33084	7wi1020.pdf
			Name of Attached Document

(1100) N	o Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting		FCC Form 481
-	lection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330847	
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com	
<1100>	Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)	Yes	
<1130>	Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).	kbps	

(1200) Te	rms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	FCC Form 481
Lifeline		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
Data Coll	ection Form	July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330847
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <0303	> deb@cstech.com
		330847wi1210.pdf
		33001/#11210.pq1
.4240:	Town 0 Condition of Wise Taleshop Hifelian Dive	
<1210>	Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans	
	•	Name of Attached Document
<1220>	Link to Public Website	
<1220>	LINK TO PUBLIC WEDSITE HTTP	http://belmonttel.com/lifeline/terms/belmont
	-	
"Dlassa cl	neck these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210,	
	bsite listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to	
	(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must	
annually r	eport.	
<1221>	Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice	
	telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers,	
<1222>	Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,	
\122Z/	Details on the number of fillinates provided as part of the plan,	
<1223>	Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.	
	<u>—</u>	

Data Coll	ice Cap Carrier Additional Documentation lection Form Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330847	
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com	

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

<2011>	3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.		
<2022>	Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4		
<2023>	Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only. The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.		
<2024A>	Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?		
<2024B>	Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
<2025A>	Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?		
<2025B>	Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
<2015>	2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)		

Data Collection Fo	Carrier Additional Documentation orm Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<2016>	p Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)} Certification support used to build broadband America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}	
<2017A>	Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?	
<2017C>	Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.	
<2018>	Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
<2019>	Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)	

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330847
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com

Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan				
(3009)	Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)				
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR §		Yes - Atta	ach Certifica	
	54.313(f)(1)(i)}				330847wi3010.pdf
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Doc Information	cument Listi	ing Required	
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR §	No - No New Community	y Anchors		
(3012B)	54.313(f)(1)(ii)} Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Doc	cument List	ing Required	
,		Information			
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)		• ·	
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)		O	
(3015)	Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires: Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)				
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<u> </u>		
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Doc Information	cument Listi	ing Required	
(3018) (3019) (3020)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited? If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement	(Yes/No)	0	O	
	and Statement of Cash Flows				
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit. If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:				
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers				
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant				
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.				
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows				_
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Doc Information	cument Listi	ing Required	

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330847
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com

Financial Data Summary	
•	
(3027) Revenue	
(3028) Operating Expenses	
(3029) Net Income	
(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)	
(3031) Total Assets	
(3032) Total Debt	
(3033) Total Equity	
(3034) Dividends	
(3034) Dividends	

(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330847
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data li	ne <030> 6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data li	ne <030> deb@cstech.com

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations - FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission's public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

relevant geographic area.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year. **Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80) 4004a**. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information deadline for the FCC Form 481. 4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information speed and data usage allowances available in the

Certification - Reporting Carrier	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330847
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients

I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.

Name of Reporting Carrier: BELMONT TEL CO

Signature of Authorized Officer:

Date

Printed name of Authorized Officer: Deb Egli

Title or position of Authorized Officer: $^{
m VP}$

Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 6087443500 ext.

330847

Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:

Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017

Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

	tion - Agent / Carrier lection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330847
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

I certify that (Name of Agent) is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting car also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.		
Name of Authorized Agent:		
Name of Reporting Carrier:		
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date:	
Printed name of Authorized Officer:		
Title or position of Authorized Officer:		
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:		
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:	
Persons willfully making false statements on this	an be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier			
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.			
Name of Reporting Carrier:			
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:			
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: Date:			
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:			
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent			
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of A	gent:		
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:		
Persons willfully making false statements on this form	n can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 19 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title	



(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330847
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com

<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date
<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

1/1
14.

1/1/2017

<703>

<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<b3></b3>	<b4></b4>	<bs></bs>	<c></c>
				Residential Local			Mandatory Extended Area	
State	Exchange (ILEC) Belmont Telephone Co.	SAC (CETC)	Rate Type	Service Rate	State Subscriber Line Charge	State Universal Service Fee	Service Charge	Total per line Rates and Fees
WI	Beimont Telephone Co.		FR	14.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.0

(710) Broadband Price Offerings	
Data Collection Form	

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330847
<015>	Study Area Name	BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com

<711>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<c> <d1></d1></c>	<d2></d2>	<d3></d3>		<d4></d4>
	State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rates and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service -Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select}
	WI	Belmont w/ Voice	35.99	0.0	35.99	3.0	0.5	999.0	Other, no data limits
	WI	Belmont w/ Voice	44.99	0.0	44.99	12.0	1.0	999.0	Other, no data limits
	WI	Belmont w/ Voice	64.99	0.0	64.99	20.0	2.0	999.0	Other, no data limits
	WI	Belmont No Voice	40.99	0.0	40.99	3.0	0.5	999.0	Other, no data limits
	WI	Belmont No Voice	49.99	0.0	49.99	12.0	1.0	999.0	Other, no data limits
	WI	Belmont No Voice	69.99	0.0	69.99	20.0	2.0	999.0	Other, no data limits

(800) Operating Companies	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code		330847
<015>	Study Area Name		BELMONT TEL CO
<020>	Program Year		2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person US	SAC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number	er - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - En	mail Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Belmont Telephone Company	
<811>	Holding Company	LICT Corporation	
<812>	Operating Company	Belmont Telephone Company	

<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>
Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation
Bretton Woods Telephone Company, Inc.	120038	Bretton Woods, World Surfer
Upper Peninsula Telephone Company	310732	Michigan Broadband Services, UPTC, MCBC, Alphacomm.n
Michigan Central Broadband Company	310785	Michigan Broadband Services, MCBC, Alphacomm.net
Belmont Telephone Company	330847	Belmont, LaGrant Connections, LLC
Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company	330872	Cuba City, LaGrant Connections, LLC
Central Scott Telephone Company	351125	Central Scott
CST Communications, Inc.	359032	CST Communications, iWireless
Dixon Telephone Company	351150	Dixon Telephone Company
Haviland Telephone Company, Inc.	411780	Haviland, Giant Communications, Inc.
J. B. N. Telephone Company, Inc.	411785	J.B.N., Giant Communications, Inc.
Western New Mexico Telephone Co., Inc.	492268	WNM Communications
Central Utah Tel Inc.	502277	CentraCom Interactive
Skyline Telecom	502283	CentraCom Interactive
Bear Lake Comm	503032	CentraCom Interactive
Cal-Ore Telephone Company	542311	Cal-Ore
Giant Communications, Inc.		Giant
Alpha Enterprises Limited, Inc.		Alphacomm.net
World Surfer, Inc.		World Surfer
INTERCOMMUNITY TELEPHONE COMPANY	381616	InterCommunity
Valley Communications, Inc.		Valley
Central Telcom Services, LLC		CentraCom Interactive
LaGrant Connections, LLC		LaGrant Connections, LLC
WNM Communications Corporation		WNM Communications

(800) Operating Companies	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code		330847
<015>	Study Area Name		BELMONT TEL CO
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<030>	Contact Name - Person US	AC should contact regarding this data	Deb Egli
<035>	Contact Telephone Number	er - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6087443500 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - En	nail Address of person identified in data line <030>	deb@cstech.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Belmont Telephone Company	
<811>	Holding Company	LICT Corporation	
<812>	Operating Company	Belmont Telephone Company	

<813>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>
	Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation
=	Cal-Ore Communications, Inc.		Cal-Ore Communications
	CS Technologies, Inc.		CS Technologies
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File name: 330847wi510.pdf

Belmont Telephone Company, Inc. Line 510 - Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

As required in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(5) for High-cost Recipients, the following is a detailed description of how the Company complies with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules.

SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS: The Company abides by the State Commission's requirements for service quality. All required reporting is done with the Company in full compliance of the service quality standard requirements.

CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES:

The Company developed and implemented a Customer Proprietary Network Information ("CPNI") Compliance Manual and has appointed a CPNI Compliance Officer. Annually, the Company requires all employees to certify that they have reviewed and understand the CPNI Compliance Manual and that they understand that any violation of the Company's CPNI procedures may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. The Company files an annual report with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") certifying compliance with the FCC's CPNI rules.

The Company also developed and implemented an Identity Theft Prevention Program Manual and has appointed a Red Flag Coordinator. Annually, the Company requires all employees certify that they have reviewed and understand the Identity Theft Prevention Program Manual. Further, employees must certify that they understand that any violation of the Company's identity theft prevention procedures may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

File name: 330847wi610.pdf

Belmont Telephone Company, Inc. Line 610 – Functionality in Emergency Situations

As required in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(6) for all high cost recipients, which includes the Company, and as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2), the following provides a detailed description demonstrating that the Company has the ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that 1) it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, 2) is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and 3) is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.

OVERALL RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS: The Company has a comprehensive disaster recovery plan (also called a "continuity plan") that was developed and implemented for the Company specifically to deal with emergencies. It has detailed, specific steps that are to be taken for each type of emergency.

POWER: In order to function in an emergency, the Company has a combination of batteries and emergency generators. Some locations have permanent emergency generators with fuel tanks; whereas, other locations require a portable generator to be brought to the location to recharge the on-site batteries. The company owns several portable generators that technicians can take out to recharge the batteries. For example, the company's central offices have automatic stand-by generators to run the entire offices. The digital loop carrier ("DLC") sites also have battery back-up.

REROUTING TRAFFIC AND REDUNDANCY: The Company has established 100% redundant E-911 trunks and SS-7 routes. In addition, the network was designed with redundancy, wherever possible, especially in the backbone network. Where it is not redundant, the Company has the ability to redirect most backbone traffic. In cases where there is no redundancy, it is due to the extreme cost of a 100% redundant network. For example, the loop to the customer location is typically not redundant, especially for residential customers. This is because it would not be cost effective to build totally separate facilities for the "last mile" to the customer.

MANAGING TRAFFIC SPIKES: The Company realizes that when a catastrophe happens, everyone immediately tries to contact friends and family to make certain they are all right. The Company has designed the network to have excess capacity on its backbone network. For example, on Mother's Day, the company handles traffic without the customer receiving the "All Trunks Busy" message which demonstrates the Company's ability to handle peak traffic spikes.

State	Exchange (ILEC)	Rate Type - Select From Drop-down: MS for Measured MT for Metered FR for Flat Rate	Residential Local Service Rate	Line Charge	State Universal Service Fee	Service Charge	Total per line Rates and Fees No Data Entry Required Calculated by System
WI	Belmont Telephone Co.	FR	14	0	0	0	14
			_				

				Total Rate and Fees	Broadband Service -	Broadband	Usage	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {Overage Charge, Blocking	
				No Data Entry Required	Download Speed	Service - Upload	Allowance	Traffic, Rate Limiting,	Other Action
State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Calculated by System	(Mbps)	Speed (Mbps)	(GB)	Other}	(Enter up to 50 characters of text)
WI	Belmont w/ Voice	35.99			3		999		no data limits
WI	Belmont w/ Voice	44.99			12		999	Other	no data limits
WI	Belmont w/ Voice	64.99			20				no data limits
WI	Belmont No Voice	40.99			3	0.5		Other	no data limits
WI	Belmont No Voice	49.99			12	1		Other	no data limits
WI	Belmont No Voice	69.99	0	69.99	20	2	999	Other	no data limits
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Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation
Bretton Woods Telephone Company, Inc.	120038	Bretton Woods, World Surfer
Upper Peninsula Telephone Company	310732	Michigan Broadband Services, UPTC, MCBC, Alphacomm.net
Michigan Central Broadband Company	310785	Michigan Broadband Services, MCBC, Alphacomm.net
Belmont Telephone Company	330847	Belmont, LaGrant Connections, LLC
Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company	330872	Cuba City, LaGrant Connections, LLC
Central Scott Telephone Company	351125	Central Scott
CST Communications, Inc.	359032	CST Communications, iWireless
Dixon Telephone Company	351150	Dixon Telephone Company
Haviland Telephone Company, Inc.	411780	Haviland, Giant Communications, Inc.
J. B. N. Telephone Company, Inc.	411785	J.B.N., Giant Communications, Inc.
Western New Mexico Telephone Co., Inc.	492268	WNM Communications
Central Utah Tel Inc.	502277	CentraCom Interactive
Skyline Telecom	502283	CentraCom Interactive
Bear Lake Comm	503032	CentraCom Interactive
Cal-Ore Telephone Company	542311	Cal-Ore
Giant Communications, Inc.		Giant
Alpha Enterprises Limited, Inc.		Alphacomm.net
World Surfer, Inc.		World Surfer
INTERCOMMUNITY TELEPHONE COMPANY	381616	InterCommunity
Valley Communications, Inc.		Valley
Central Telcom Services, LLC		CentraCom Interactive
LaGrant Connections, LLC		LaGrant Connections, LLC
WNM Communications Corporation		WNM Communications
Cal-Ore Communications, Inc.		Cal-Ore Communications
CS Technologies, Inc.		CS Technologies

File name: 330847wi1010.pdf

Belmont Telephone Company, Inc. Line 1010 – Voice Services Rate Comparability

As required in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(10), any recipient of high-cost support shall provide a letter certifying that the pricing of the company's voice services is no more than two standard deviations above the applicable national average urban rate for voice services, as specified in the most recent public notice issued by the Wireline Competition Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

The following provides the Company's support for Line 1010 - Description of Voice Service Rate Comparability.

As of January 1, 2017, the Company charges the following fixed voices prices:

Flat Rate Residential Service	\$14.00
State Residential Subscriber Line Charge	0.00
State Universal Service Charge Fee	0.00
Mandatory Extended Area Service	0.00
Residential Federal Subscriber Line Charge	6.50
Total Residential Fixed Voice Charges	<u>\$20.50</u>

Since the total for basic residential fixed voice that the Company charges, as shown above, is below the 2016 rate floor for voice services of \$22.49 and below the reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services of \$49.51, announced by the FCC Wireline Competition Bureau in the Public Notice released on February 14, 2017 (DA 17-167), the Company certifies that the pricing of its basic residential voice services is no more than \$49.51 and the Company hereby certifies that it is in compliance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(10).

File name: 330847wi1020.pdf

Belmont Telephone Company, Inc. Line 1020 – Broadband Comparability

In a December 2014 Order (FCC 14-90), paragraphs 119-123, the FCC created Section 54.313(a)(12) which requires recipients of High Cost Program and/or Connect America Fund support that are subject to broadband performance obligations to submit a broadband reasonable comparability rate certification.

The following provides the Company's support for Line 1020 - Description of Broadband Service Rate Comparability.

As of January 1, 2017, the Company charges the following residential broadband price, where available:

Download Speed	12Mbps
Upload Speed	1Mpbs
Usage Allowance	Unlimited
TOTAL RESIDENTIAL	\$49.99

As shown above, the Company provides a 12 Mbps x 1 Mbps for \$49.99. Since the total for residential broadband that the Company charges, as shown above, is below the \$77.98 for 10 Mbps x 1 Mbps service with the unlimited usage allowance, and since 12 Mbps x 1 Mbps gives greater broadband speed than 10 Mbps x 1 Mbps, which is the reasonable comparability benchmark for broadband service announced by the FCC Wireline Competition Bureau in the Public Notice released on February 14, 2017 (DA 17-167), the Company hereby certifies that it is in compliance with $47 \text{ C.F.R.} \S 54.313(a)(12)$.

Belmont Telephone Company Lifeline Terms and Conditions

This program can help low-income customers reduce their telephone bills. Lifeline makes telephone service more affordable for income-eligible households by reducing the basic monthly charge for one telephone line.

How Much Can I Save Per Month?

Lifeline will generally reduce the cost of monthly telephone service for eligible households by \$10.00. If the cost of monthly traditional telephone service is more d1an \$25.00, a credit will be issued so d1at the monthly charge is no more than \$15 for a basic residential line, 120 local calls, 911 costs and the Federal Subscriber Line Charge (SLC).

Lifeline customers who choose a prepaid wireless service will receive a set number of minutes each month (at no charge) equivalent to the \$10.00 credit on landline services. Additional charges will apply if you have higher usage.

Lifeline Providers

Most wireline and wireless providers offer a Lifeline service. A list of Lifeline Providers can be found on the Public Service Commission website at: psc.wi.gov/Lifeline

How Do I Apply?

First, contact your telephone service provider and ask to apply for **Lifeline** assistance for Wisconsin residents. The service provider will need to verify that you are eligible.

If you are currently receiving benefits from one of the programs listed in this brochure, but your **Lifeline** application was denied, contact your case worker or county benefits specialist.

NOTE: If you getting a **Lifeline** service from one provider, you cannot also get **Lifeline** from another provider. For instance, if you have a **Lifeline** service in your home, you are not eligible to also get a Lifeline supported pre-paid wireless service. The Company's voice lifeline plan includes unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. The Company's voice lifeline plan does not include any free minutes-of-use for toll unless a "bundled minutes" package is chosen.

Who is Eligible to Participate in Lifeline?

Eligible customers include those that receive benefits from:

- Wisconsin Homestead Tax Credit (Schedule H)
- Wisconsin Works (W2)
- Medical Assistance (MA)
- Badger Care
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food Stamps
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- TANF
- National School Lunch Program

Residents of tribal lands may also qualify for **Lifeline** and **Link-Up** (assistance with the cost of initially getting telephone service) by participating in a federal tribal assistance program and may be eligible for additional credits. Please contact your Tribal Authority for additional information.

Lifeline Facts and Benefits

• A **Lifeline** customer's local telephone service will not be disconnected for non-payment of long distance charges.

- Being a **Lifeline** customer **does not** protect you from disconnection if you do not pay your local telephone bill.
- 900-number blocking and other forms of toll blocking are available at no charge.
- If wu apply for Lifeline telephone service and have an outstanding debt with a telecommunications provider, payment arrangements must be negotiated before the telephone service will be installed.

Questions?

Your local telephone service provider should be your first contact if you have questions regarding **Lifeline**. If you have further questions or a complaint about **Lifeline**then call the Public Service Commission.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is an independent state agency the oversees more than 1,100 Wisconsin public utilities that provide natural gas, electricity, heat, steam, water and telecommunications.

File name: 330847wi3010.pdf

Belmont Telephone Company, Inc. Line 3010 – Certification of Public Interest Obligations

As required in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(1)(i), any rate-of-return ETC receiving support must certify it has taken reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas, and that requests for such service were met within a reasonable amount of time.

With this document, the Company hereby certifies that it has taken reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas, and that requests for such service were met within a reasonable amount of time as required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(1)(i).

In locations where 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas, cannot be provided currently, a reasonable request financial analysis is performed based on the requirements included in the FCC Orders related to reasonable requests including those shown on the following pages.

If the request meets the qualifications of the reasonable request analysis, broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas, is provided within a reasonable amount of time as required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(1)(i).

If the request does not meet the qualifications of the reasonable request analysis, broadband service is analyzed at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream and if that analysis meets the qualifications of the reasonable request analysis, broadband service is provided at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream as required by the FCC rules and regulations within a reasonable amount of time as required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(1)(i).

If the reasonable request analysis does not meet the qualifications for either the 10 Mbps or the 4 Mbps reasonable request analysis, the customer is informed that broadband service cannot be provided at this time at either of those speed levels and provided information on what speed level would be available at their location. The reasonable request analysis is retained and recomputed if significant conditions change, as required by the FCC rules and regulations.

CERTIFICATION: The Company certifies that it is in compliance with the FCC Rules and Regulations and all appropriate documents are being filed as required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(1)(i). The certification by an officer of the Company is included as part of the overall certification for the Form 481, which includes all attachments and is made by an officer of the Company whose responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients. The overall Form 481 certification is made that to the best of the officer's knowledge, the information reported on the Form 481, including attachments, is accurate.

Primary FCC Orders Relating to "Reasonable Requests" for Broadband Service

In its 2011 *USF/ICC Transformation Order*¹ the Commission required rate-of-return carriers receiving Universal Service Fund (USF) support to provide their customers with "at least the same initial minimum level of broadband service as those carriers who receive model-based support" ² Recognizing RLECs' generally small size, however, the Commission determined these carriers "should be provided greater flexibility in edging out their broadband-capable networks in response to consumer demand." More specifically, the Commission stated that, "[u]pon receipt of a reasonable request for service, carriers must deploy broadband to the requesting customer within a reasonable amount of time."³

In its 2012 *Third Order on Reconsideration*,⁴ the Commission clarified that its rules "provide sufficient flexibility to take into account any unique circumstances that may impact the ability of rate-of-return companies to extend broadband to their customers, including backhaul costs."⁵

Later, in its 2014 Seventh Order on Reconsideration, the Commission acknowledged that there remained "some ambiguity" as to what would constitute an unreasonable request for service. ⁶ It accordingly included a Declaratory Ruling to clarify matters. ⁷

The *Declaratory Ruling* first suggests that rate-of-return carriers evaluating a request to extend broadband service should consider:

¹ See Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; High-Cost Universal Service Support; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Lifeline and Link-Up; Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund; WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, GN Docket No. 09-51, WT Docket No. 10-208, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd. 17663 (2011) (USF/ICC Transformation Order).

² Id. ¶ 206.

³ *Id.* ¶ 208.

⁴ See Connect America Fund et al., WC Docket No. 10-90, et. al., Third Order on Reconsideration, 27 FCC Rcd. 5622 (2012) (*Third Order on Reconsideration*).

⁵ *Id.* ¶ 46.

⁶ Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund, WT Docket No. 10-208, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58, Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135, Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92, Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order, Seventh Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 29 FCC Rcd. 1175 (2014) ¶ 64 (Seventh Order on Reconsideration).

⁷ *Id.* ¶ 59.

whether it would be reasonable to make the necessary upgrades in light of anticipated end-user revenues from the retail provision of broadband service and other sources of revenues, including but not limited to federal or state universal service funding projected to be available under current rules. In considering end-user revenues, carriers should take into account the reasonable comparability benchmark for broadband services. If the incremental cost of undertaking the necessary upgrades to a particular location exceed the revenues that could be expected from that upgraded line, a request would not be reasonable.⁸

The Declaratory Ruling then specifically relates determination of unreasonable requests to the \$250/line cap on total high cost support imposed by the 2011 USF/ICC Transformation Order:

[A] request is not reasonable if it would require a carrier to undertake new network upgrades to install new backhaul facilities or to replace existing copper lines to the home with fiber merely for the purpose of newly providing broadband service in study areas where total support already is subject to the \$250 per line monthly cap. Moreover, we declare that a request is not reasonable if it would require a carrier to undertake new network upgrades to newly provide broadband service to requesting customers if that would cause total monthly support that presently is under the \$250 cap to exceed the cap⁹

The Commission also made clear a rate-of-return carrier has no obligation to extend broadband-capable infrastructure in any census block that is served by an unsubsidized competitor that meets the Commission's current performance standards.¹⁰

At the time the *Declaratory Ruling* was issued, the Commission was also considering whether to revise its broadband performance obligations to require higher speeds, such as 10Mbps downstream. ¹¹ The Commission reiterated, however, that if minimum speed requirements were increased, a rate-of-return carrier would only be required to provide the higher speed service if the request was reasonable:

In determining whether a particular upgrade is cost effective, the carrier should consider not only its anticipated end-user revenues from the services to be offered over that network, both voice and retail broadband internet access, but also other sources of support, such as federal and, where available, state universal service funding. Under our proposal to increase the minimum downstream speed threshold, we thus would not expect a rate-of-return carrier immediately to upgrade its entire existing infrastructure to provide 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream (10 Mbps/1 Mbps) to all current customers. Rather, we propose that rate-of-return carriers would take into account any revised speed standards when considering whether and where to upgrade existing plant

⁸ *Id.* ¶ 65.

⁹ *Id.* ¶ 67.

¹⁰ *Id*. ¶ 68.

¹¹ *Id.* ¶ 138.

in the ordinary course of business and would report on progress toward this goal in preparing annual updates to their five-year service improvement plans.¹²

In a *Report and Order* released December 18, 2014 the Commission adopted several measures to address non-compliance with its CAF deployment obligations.¹³ Noting that rate-of-return carriers were required to build out their networks only on "reasonable request," the Commission determined that non-compliance issues for RLECs should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.¹⁴ (This differs significantly from the strict milestone-based measures applicable to other eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs).)

The Commission further clarified that rate-of-return carriers "should report any requests that are deemed unreasonable as unfulfilled requests in their section 54.313 annual reports." USAC is expected to verify that rate-of-return carriers have sufficient evidence to demonstrate that any unfulfilled requests were in fact unreasonable. ¹⁶ To the extent USAC determines that insufficient evidence to support a denial of service, such finds shall be reported as "other matters." ¹⁷

¹² *Id.* ¶ 144.

¹³ Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58, Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Obsolete ILEC, Regulatory Obligations that Inhibit Deployment of Next-Generation Networks, WC Docket No. 14-192, Report and Order, FCC 14-190 (rel. Dec. 18, 2014) (Report and Order).

¹⁴ *Id*. ¶ 143.

¹⁵ *Id*. ¶ 153.

¹⁶ *Id*.

¹⁷ Id.